

YEMEN

18 - 24 August 2017

KEY FIGURES

20.7 million
people in need

1,980,510
Internally Displaced Persons
(IDPs)

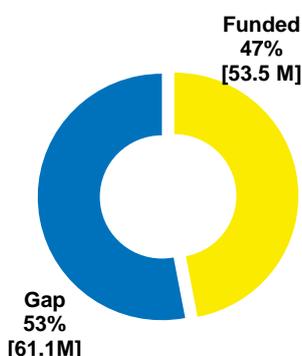
84 percentage of IDPs
displaced for more than a
year

946,044 IDP returnees

865,121 recipients of NFIs
since March 2015

280,421 refugees and
asylum seekers

Funding
USD **114.6 M**
requested in 2017



Operational Update

UNHCR is deeply saddened by reports of incidents resulting in loss of life, including that of internally displaced persons (IDPs), in the north of Sana'a. On 23 August, hostilities in the Arhab district, some 20km north of Yemen's capital city, left an estimated 40 individuals dead. Among those killed were five internally displaced persons. The war in Yemen is exacting an unacceptably high toll on civilians, with a concerning correlation between escalating hostilities, fresh displacement and civilian casualties. UNHCR has warned that the conflict in Yemen is intensifying, with both air raids and ground clashes increasing in 2017, taking a brutal toll on civilians. The incident in Arhab is yet another tragic illustration of the disregard for civilian safety in Yemen, and the great personal risk that IDPs are exposed to.

The war in Yemen is now in its third year, and has resulted in close to two million displaced people, 84 per cent of whom have been out of their homes for more than 12 months. Those forcibly displaced by violence have long since exhausted their meagre resources and life savings, with many at risk of eviction from rented shelter, exploitation or abuse and turning to negative coping mechanisms. UNHCR reiterates its call to all parties to the conflict to ensure the protection of civilians in Yemen and to do their utmost to mitigate suffering. The Agency is also calling on all parties to do more to end the conflict and secure lasting peace. Despite the ongoing challenges, UNCHR has continued to respond to IDPs and refugees in Yemen.

IDP Response



UNHCR is alarmed that civilians, including displaced individuals, continue to be exposed to personal risk. Photo: UNHCR/ S Mantoo.

A UNHCR pilot shelter project for an extremely vulnerable internally displaced community in Abs district, Hajjah Governorate, is underway. Some 170 shelters have been completed in the Al-Manjjarah spontaneous settlement, where for over two years families have sought shelter in poor conditions. During a UNHCR monitoring mission to assess progress, families underlined that the improved shelters provided increased comfort and privacy. The traditional shelters, to which communities contributed to the design, are constructed using local materials, with thatched roofs and mud walls, reinforced with plastic sheeting and a wooden frame. The pilot phase will see a total of 200 shelters constructed, with a further 1,500 homes to be built over the next four months.

UNHCR's Sa'ada field office has observed a worrying increase among the needs of the population, against a backdrop of unrelenting insecurity. The UNHCR team is ensuring that urgent assistance can reach those most in need in the northern governorates of Sa'ada and Al Jawf. This week alone, some 1,735 individuals in Majz, Razih, Sahar, Sa'ada, and As Safra districts were reached with core relief items, including mattresses and kitchen sets. Some 860 IDPs approached the UNHCR-supported Al Bena community centre during the week, for protection support, including access to legal assistance, psychosocial support and medical referrals. Even though the governorate is subject to ongoing hostilities, it is hosting some 105,400 internally displaced persons, 94 per cent of whom are residing in private settings, including staying with host families and rented accommodation, according to the 15th report of the Task Force on Population Movement.

Refugee Response

Education for refugee children is a core component of UNHCR's work, and in Yemen, UNHCR is working closely with the authorities to safeguard access to and quality schooling for children. Recognising that in times of displacement, safe education is crucial to children's psychosocial needs as well as their development, UNHCR is carrying out refurbishment on three schools in Kharaz camp in Lahj and in Basateen, Aden Governorate. Ahead of the commencement of the new school year, work is underway to improve classrooms, put in place resource rooms, and establish shaded areas to protect children outdoors, benefitting both refugee and local hosting communities.

UNHCR's ongoing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme in Kharaz camp aims to meet basic needs and improve safe access to water with sufficient quality and quantity for families residing within the camp. Kharaz camp, which is a temporary home to some 16,000 people, nearly half of whom are children, is mainly populated with Somali refugees and situated in an isolated location within Lahj governorate. This week, ongoing maintenance of latrines took place. Ensuring access to clean water and sanitation facilities helps to prevent or contain the outbreak of diseases, including cholera. Each week some 2600m³, or 696,847 gallons of water are distributed in the sixteen year old camp. UNHCR also distributed an additional 1,880m³ of clean water this week to the police station, health centre, schools, mosques, warehouses and power station within the camp.

The breakdown in national medical systems is putting refugee men, women and children at particular risk, with refugees and Yemeni host communities increasingly relying on UNHCR for medical assistance. The UN estimates that only 45 per cent of health facilities are functioning to some degree. UNHCR's interventions include the provision of primary care, medical consultations, vaccinations, medicines, and reproductive health services to refugees, asylum seekers and host communities. In addition, UNHCR through partners, provides sexual gender based violence care, psychosocial counselling, and physiotherapy for refugees living with disabilities, along with critical secondary level hospital care, by referring those with life-threatening and chronic illnesses for specialist treatment. This week alone, UNHCR-supported clinics provided a range of medical assistance to 1,886 individuals, one third of whom are local Yemenis. Furthermore, over 2,000 persons of concern attended awareness sessions this week on a range of health issues, including cholera, child nutrition and family planning.

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